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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "What the 1945 Garden Survey Shows"--Information from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Leaders attending the National Garden Conference set a goal of 20 million home gardens for 1946.

Perhaps you're wondering how this compares with the number of gardens during the last year of the war.

Economists of the U.S.Department of Agriculture tell us that it's a million and a half more gardens than we had in 1945. And to meet this goal...garden leaders are urging everyone who can possibly do so to grow a garden this year. It will take new gardeners....added to the Victory gardeners of the war years... to meet the goal...and to grow the food we need.

Most Victory gardeners of 1945 do plan to continue gardening this year. That's shown in a survey made last fall by agricultural economists. At that time --if you weren't a gardener---you might have thought the Victory gardeners would be ready to call it a day. The war had ended.

But once a gardener...you're likely to keep on being a gardener. The habit grows. Families with gardens found that they were eating more fresh vegetables than they ordinarily would. They liked the garden-fresh products.

The survey shows that tomatoes was the most widely grown vegetable in Victory gardens of 1945. Tomatoes led in both farm and town gardens. Other vegetables popular with Victory gardeners were string or wax beans, onions, lettuce, radishes, beets and carrots. Farm gardeners....having more space... grew a greater variety of vegetables than gardeners who loved in towns. They also

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raised potatoes, cabbage, green peas, sweet corn and cucumbers in their gardens.... in addition to the vegetables grown in town gardens.

As in other years...most Victory gardeners raised a surplus of vegetables in 1945. These...the housewives put up by canning, freezing, brining and storing.

The 1945 garden season was not as good as 1944. The weather was not so favorable. Although Victory gardeners had plots just as large as the year before they didn't harvest as bountiful crops. Nor were housewives able to put up as much food. This was due to the fact that not so much food was available as in 1944. The sugar shortage also cut down on food preservation. And so did the end of rationing canned foods...in a few cases.

Even so...the majority of home gardeners said last fall they would plant again in the spring of 1946.

Those who said they wouldn't continue to garden gave as their reasons... lack of time...lack of space...uncertainty of plans...and poor health.

Only a few said they would quit gardening because the war had ended. These gardeners thought the need for food would no longer be great. But events have proved them wrong.

This year....when famine faces the world...Victory gardens are just as important as they were during the war.

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